SANDY

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTIONS

PE 25-31

Land Resource Area:___High Plains___

1.   TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: Nearly level to gently rolling, deep, sandy land. May have areas of sand hills occurring in association. Rarely are drainage patterns well defined. Elevation ranges from 2600 to 4000 feet.

2.   SOILS:

    a.   These soils are deep and coarse textured. They are highly susceptible to wind erosion without plant cover. These soils have a high water intake rate. They have a low water and fertility holding capacity but have a good plant-soil-moisture-air relationship.

    b.   Soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
        Brownfield fine sand. Thick surface.

    c.   Specific site location:

3.   CLIMATE - See Field Office Climatic Description

4.   CLIMAX VEGETATION:

    a.   As a result of excellent soil-plant-air-moisture relationship, this site is characterized by tall grasses which are post climax for the area. There is an excellent composition of forbs. The site is primarily a tall grass prairie with oak motts and scattered sand dunes.

Relative Percentage

Grasses	75%	Forbs	10%	Woody	15%
Sand bluestem	} 30	Bundleflower		Havard oak	} 15
Little bluestem		Oenothera species		Sand sagebrush	
Switchgrass	T	Gaura species		Yucca	
Indiangrass	T	Dalea species		Skunkbush	
Sand lovegrass	5	Prairie clover		Sumac	
Sideoats grama	5	Dotted gayfeather		Sand plum	} T
Needle & threadgrass	T	Wild alfalfa		Hackberry	
New Mexico feathergrass	T	Catclaw sensitive		Western ragweed	
Spike & giant dropseed	10	briar			
Feather bluestem	T	Queens delight			
Mesa dropseed	} 10	Wild buckwheat			
Sand dropseed					
Perennial threeawn	5				
Fall witchgrass					
Hooded windmillgrass	} 15				
Hairy grama					
Sand paspalum					
Plains bristlegrass					

b.   Continuous heavy grazing produces a decline in sand bluestem,
     switchgrass, spike and giant dropseed and little bluestem and
     replaces them with hooded windmillgrass, mesa and sand dropseed,
     hairy grama, and fall witchgrass. As the site further deterio-
     rates, shinoak and sand sage increases along with numerous invaders.

c.   Total annual air dry forage yields vary from 1200 to 3200 pounds
     per acre in excellent condition, depending on rainfall.

5.   WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The abundance of tall grass and the
     excellent composition of forbs makes this site attractive to many
     forms of wildlife. Excellent food and cover is provided for quail,
     dove, and the prairie chicken. The tall grass also provides these
     species with above average nesting and brooding areas. Antelope do
     well on the forbs and mid grasses found on the site. The scattered,
     low growing havard oak does not provide adequate escape cover for deer.

6.   AESTHETIC AND RELATVED VALUES: Tall grass prairie dotted with small
     amounts of colorful forbs in summer is the general rule, provided
     moisture is sufficient. These areas are most often in large tracts
     of ranchland and are not easily accessible. In climax condition this
     is a beautiful tall grass prairie.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: Deep, sandy soils inhibit runoff.
    Water is available to plants quickly; erosion from water is not
    a problem.

8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

    a. Condition Class   Percent Climax Vegetation   AC/AU/YL

        Excellent   76 - 100   20 - 30
        Good   51 - 75   27 - 40
        Fair   26 - 50   38 - 60
        Poor   0   25   55 +

    b. Seeded Areas   Percent Ground Cover
        All seeding   100-76   75-51   50-26   25-0
        AC/AU/YL   16-18   18-22   22-32   32 +

9. RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES:

    a. Cattle: PRIMARY*   SECONDARY*   LOW VALUE*
                  Sand bluestem   Spike dropseed   Havard oak
                  Little bluestem   Mesa dropseed   Sand sagebrush
                  Sideoats grama   New Mexico   Fall witchgrass
                  Feather bluestem   feathergrass   Perennial threeawn
                  Sand paspalum   Sand dropseed
                                      Giant dropseed
                                      Hooded windmill
                                          grass

    b. Antelope: Havard oak   Sideoats grama   Bluestems
                   Sand sagebrush   Sand paspalum   Most grasses
                   Annual forbs   Dropseeds
                   Prairie clover   Hooded windmill
                   Bush sunflower   grass
                   Sensitivebriar   Dotted gayfeather

    c. Quail &   PRIMARY**   SECONDARY**   LOWVVALUE**
        dove: Panicums   Dropseed   Fall witchgrass
                   Sand paspalum   Sand sagebrush   Bluestems
                   Annual forbs   Sideoats grama
                   Gaura species   Oak mast
                   Wild alfalfa   Hooded windmill
                                          grass
                   Sunflower